

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 8-15 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,123,077 to *Endo et al.* (“*Endo*”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,341,231 to *Yamamoto et al.* (“*Yamamoto*”). Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Endo* in view of *Yamamoto* and European Patent Publication No. EP 0663600 to *Koike et al.* (“*Koike*”). Applicant respectfully traverses, noting that, even in combination, these references do not disclose every element of Applicant’s claims. More specifically, none of these references discloses the concave light reflecting surface.

Endo does not disclose a light reflecting surface that is concave. Respectfully, it appears that Examiner continues to be under the mistaken impression that surface 4d of *Endo* is a light reflecting surface (Office Action, page 3).¹ However, *Endo* discloses that surface 4d is a light emitting surface (Col. 5:4-6). The light reflecting surface of *Endo* is surface 4a, which is flat, not curved (Cols. 5:4-6, 7:25-28). Accordingly, *Endo* discloses no surface that is both concave and light reflecting.

Yamamoto does not cure the deficiency of *Endo*. *Yamamoto* at most discloses a curved reflector 22 that reflects light toward a separate diffusion plate 21 (e.g., FIG. 2; Col. 1:43-57). That is, *Yamamoto* does not disclose a single plate that has both a reflecting surface and a patterned light-exiting surface. Rather, it discloses a reflector 22 and separate diffusion plate 21. Thus, as *Yamamoto* does not disclose a light guide plate having both a light exiting surface and a light reflecting surface, *Yamamoto* cannot disclose such a light guide plate, where the light reflecting surface is also concave.

Koike also does not cure the deficiency of *Endo*. *Koike* discloses a light guide 1 whose light reflecting surface is flat (e.g., FIG. 8). No concave reflecting surfaces are disclosed. Accordingly, claims 4-7 are each patentable over *Endo*, *Koike*, and *Funamoto* for at least the reason that claim 1, from which claims 4-7 depend, recites that “the light reflecting surface of the light guide plate is concave.”

In summary, none of *Endo*, *Yamamoto*, or *Koike* discloses a light guide plate with both a light exiting surface and a concave light reflecting surface. *Endo* and *Koike* do not disclose concave

¹ Applicant notes that Examiner clearly relies on 4d of *Endo*, rather than 4D. However, Applicant’s arguments apply with equal force even if Examiner is relying on 4D, as surface 4D is also flat, not curved (e.g., FIG. 1).

light reflecting surfaces, while *Yamamoto* does not even disclose a light guide plate with both light reflecting and light exiting surfaces, and thus cannot disclose a light guide plate with a light exiting surface and concave light reflecting surface. Applicant's claims 1 and 12 are thus patentable over each of these references for at least the reason that it recites "a light guide plate including ... a light exiting surface having a plurality of luminance-compensating patterns, and ... a light reflecting surface facing the light exiting surface, ... wherein the light reflecting surface of the light guide plate is concave." The remaining pending claims each depend from one of claims 1 or 12, and are thus also patentable for at least this same reason.

Conclusion

The Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number below in order to speed the prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2257.

Respectfully submitted,

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